

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 and 16-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 16, 23, 25 and 27 are amended, and claim 29 is added. Support for these amendments can be found, at least, on pages 14-17 of Applicants' specification. Support for added claim 29 can be found, at least, on pages 14-15 of Applicants' specification. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-7 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,243 to Kim ("Kim") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,079 to Nakatani et al. ("Nakatani") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,299,244 to Hertling et al. ("Hertling"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 4, as amended, recite a "rule management unit that dynamically creates and modifies rules relating to errors occurring in processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data." Claim 16, as amended, recites "dynamically creating and modifying rules relating to errors occurring in processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data." Hertling does not disclose or suggest these features.

Hertling discloses a system for dynamic sequencing of a requirements-based workflow. See Abstract of Hertling. Hertling discloses a registry that stores information related to services available to complete a received job request and a workflow controller capable of dynamically generating a workflow based on the received job request. See col. 1, lines 40-56 of Hertling.

Hertling further discloses that the workflow controller includes a rules database containing rules that specify requirements for constructing the workflow based on a nature of the job request, and the workflow controller dynamically generates the workflow by comparing the requirements of the rules to outputs of one or more prior nodes to generate subsequent nodes. See Figs. 10 and 12 and col. 1, lines 40-56 of Hertling. Hertling also discloses that the apparatus may follow any number of workflows, an example of which is

shown in Fig. 2 as a node-tree diagram 10 that illustrates processes defined in a workflow for printing a brochure. See Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 8-13 of Hertling. Hertling explains that the node tree 10 is intended to apply to printing a document, but may also be used to represent workflows for other services besides printing. See col. 4, line 62 - col. 5, line 2 of Hertling.

Hertling is basically receiving a job request, comparing the request to a database of rules, and generating the workflow based upon the nature of the rules. Although Hertling looks to a rules database to modify a particular job request, Hertling does not dynamically create and modify rules based upon errors occurring in the overall workflow.

By contrast, claim 1 recites a "rule management unit that dynamically creates and modifies rules relating to errors occurring in processing tasks for the predetermined series of processes on document data." Hertling does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1, nor does it disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 4 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 16, and claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 17-19 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kim in view of Nakatani and further in view of Hertling and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,162 to Shimizu et al. ("Shimizu"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 20-22 depend from claims 1, 4 and 16. As explained above, neither Kim, Nakatani nor Hertling disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 1, 4 and 16, nor does Shimizu supply the subject matter lacking in either Kim, Nakatani or Hertling. Therefore, claims 20-22 are in condition for allowance based on their dependence from claims 1, 4 and 16, and for the separately patentable subject matter they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,885,469 to Tanimoto ("Tanimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,975,421 to Hashimoto et al. ("Hashimoto"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 23, 25 and 27, as amended, recite a control unit that performs controls such that when there is an error with respect to processing of the document data during execution of the series of the plurality of processes "the control means executes the processes following the process in which there was the error by using a process different from the processes after the process in which there was the error and executes the processes with respect to portions of the document data other than a location in which there was the error, the control means then reexecutes the processing of the portion of the document data at the location in which the error occurred." Neither Tanimoto nor Hashimoto disclose or suggest these features.

Using the rejection of claim 23 for illustrative purposes, Tanimoto discloses an image processing device that allows LAN clients to selectively disable functions of the device after malfunctioning of the device is detected. See col. 1, lines 5-12 of Tanimoto. Tanimoto discloses an image processing device that monitors its own functions, reports detected errors to an external device, such as a LAN client, and allows the external device to selectively disable individual functions of the image processing device without disabling other functions that are working properly. See col. 1, lines 35-41 of Tanimoto.

For example, a user may want to fax a document from a multi-function printer/scanner/fax device and the printing portion of the device may not be working properly. Tanimoto allows the user to still scan and fax the device while disabling the printing portion. However, Tanimoto does not disclose the ability to reprocess portions of document data where an error occurred during execution of the plurality of processes.

Hashimoto does not cure Tanimoto's deficiencies. Hashimoto discloses a print system capable of displaying images relating to print jobs in a short period of time to enable the user

to easily select a desired print job from a plurality of print jobs stored in a memory of the printer. See col. 1, line 65 - col. 2, line 3 of Hashimoto. Hashimoto further discloses a printer capable of reprinting only desired pages of a print job stored in the memory of a printer. See col. 2, lines 4-6 of Hashimoto.

Essentially, Hashimoto is allowing the user to quickly find particular print jobs, or pages in a print job at a printer without having to reprint the job from a computer. However, Hashimoto does not disclose the ability to reprocess portions of document data where an error occurred during the execution of a plurality of processes.

By contrast, claim 23 recites a "control means which performs control such that when there is an error with respect to processing of the document data during execution of the series of the plurality of processes, the control means executes the processes following the process in which there was the error by using a process different from the process after the process in which there was the error and executes the process with respect to portions of the document data other than the location in which there was the error, the control means then reexecutes the processing of the portion of the document data at the location in which the error occurred." Neither Tanimoto nor Hashimoto disclose or suggest these features of claim 23, nor do they disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 25 and 27.

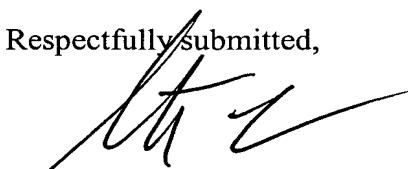
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 23, 25 and 27, and claims 24, 26 and 28 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Finally, claim 29 depends from claim 1. As explained above, neither Kim, Nakatani, nor Hertling disclose or suggest the features recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 29 is in condition for allowance based on its dependence from claim 1, and for the separately patentable subject matter it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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